

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that James T. Maher, DOB 7/17/79, of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 21 months in prison, to be followed by a three-year term of supervised release, for distributing methamphetamine in Vernon County on April 14, 2005.

Maher sold approximately 6 grams of methamphetamine to a police informant on April 14, 2005, in Genoa, Wisconsin. At sentencing, Judge Crabb stated Maher has wasted the first 27 years of his life and hoped that he would use his federal prison term as a chance to rehabilitate himself into a useful member of society.

The charge against Maher was the result of an investigation conducted by the Vernon County Sheriff's Department and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigations - Narcotics Bureau. The prosecution of this case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

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